

THE FERMILAB USERS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2005 – 2006 ACTIVITIES

Sacha E. Kopp, University of Texas at Austin
Chair, Fermilab UEC

- Fermilab users elect **12-member representative body**, the “Users Executive Committee” which conducts the affairs of the Users’ Organization in between the Annual Meetings. There are 3 important functions:

- a. **facilitate communications** between the Laboratory and the users
- b. work toward better **quality of life** at Fermilab
- c. help the field of HEP **present its case** for community & gov’t support

Unlike the PAC or advisory groups, this is a service group and an advocacy group (internal and external).

- The 2005-2006 UEC consisted of 7 newcomers and 5 continuing members

Andrew Alton, U. Mich (CDF)	Richard Hughes, Ohio State (CDF)
Iain Bertram, Lancaster Univ. (DØ)	Sacha Kopp, U. Texas (MINOS), <i>chair</i>
Max Chertok, UC Davis (CDF)	Wyatt Merritt, FNAL (DØ), <i>secretary/web</i>
Tom Diehl, FNAL (DØ)	Hogan Nguyen, FNAL (CKM/PPD)
Dave Finley, FNAL (MiniBooNE)	Breese Quinn, U. Miss. (DØ)
George Gollin, U. Illinois (ILC)	William Trischuk, U. Toronto (CDF), <i>emeritus chair</i>

We thank in particular the outgoing members for their years of service.

- It’s time to conduct **elections** for the **2006-2007** UEC. Please consider placing your name in nomination. It’s an opportunity to give back to the community which has been so good to us all. Consider how well-knit is the HEP community in comparison to those from other user facilities, and consider the care and feeding that this kind of close-knit community requires. The process consists of
 - Completion of UEC nomination ballot by 6/12/06 (with 12 signatures),
http://www.fnal.gov/orgs/fermilab_users_org/users_mtg/2006/UECNominationForm_06.pdf
 - Posting of candidate bio’s and statements on UEC web site (June)
 - Email election by full user electorate (July).
- We want the UEC to **represent the breadth** of Fermilab users
 - Accelerator-based exp’ts (NOvA, MINOS, MiniBooNE, MINERvA, CDF, DØ, ...)
 - Particle astro experiments (SDSS, CDMS, DES, SNAP, Auger, *etc.*)
 - The CMS users & LHC accelerator physicists in U.S.
 - Users doing R&D toward ILC, in collaboration with FNALIt’s obvious each of these groups has a **different working relationship** they will want to establish with the laboratory which best suits their research needs.
- It cannot be overstated how much **we value the support of URA**. Our user organization is particularly vibrant in comparison to other user communities at other DOE labs because HEP experimenters have longer connections to the lab (as compared to, *eg*, light source users), but importantly because of the support from URA.

FACILITATING COMMUNICATIONS

- The monthly meetings have been a traditional opportunity for our committee to discuss issues of relevance to the users and **disseminate information** through our **minutes** sent to userorg@fnal.gov (I know these are read because errors are discovered within hours and I hear comments!).
- Some examples of things we heard about and discussed this year:
 - Irwin Gaines, FNAL Computing Division, “Computing security measures, requirements for laptops, etc.”
 - Bruce Chrisman, Assoc. Director for Admin., “Fermilab ID badge security and potential new measures required by DOE under Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12”
 - Martha Heflin (PPD) and Mary Logue (ES&H), “New Procedures to Assure User Compliance with FNAL Safety Requirements, and offsite access to training materials”. We are working with them to develop better means of tracking users needing safety training.
 - Dave McGinnis (AD), “Accelerator Division Studies critical before the start of the shutdown”.
 - Keith Gollwitzer (AD), “Lessons learned in pBar Stacking Studies”
 - Developing better means of publicizing events at Fermilab (P5 reviews, DOE reviews, workshops, etc...). I know I have found it challenging to plan my own travel, sometimes lacking advance knowledge of events here at the Lab. I had been hoping to work on a better ‘long range calendar’ to facilitate users’ travel planning, but still no resolution.
- Additionally, we heard several presentations **advertising resources available to users** at FNAL:
 - Rocky Kolb, “FNAL Astrophysics Center”
 - John Cooper (PPD), “Getting involved in NOvA, and the NOvA Review Process”
 - Bob Kephart (Assoc. Director for ILC), “The recent reorganization of how the lab supports ILC research”
 - Eric Vaandering, “Meson Area Test Beam Facilities”
 - Sarah Eno (U. Maryland), “LHC Physics Center”
 - Erik Gottschalk, “LHC@FNAL -- Remote Operations Center”
 - Young Kee Kim, “Where do Fermilab Users Come From”
- We hope that users find these minutes of some utility.
 - Off-site users can find it difficult to learn the goings-on at FNAL
 - We can arrange to meet with busy people to report on important issues
 - We can deliver feedback to the Lab

We are **very grateful** to members of the laboratory & directorate, and the Director, for making time to meet with us and inform the user community in this manner.

QUALITY OF LIFE AT FERMILAB

- Availability of the email center and computing resources: with the re-opening we inquired about how users can better “pre-scan” their laptops so they are not so quickly blocked when they arrive site.
- Upon inquiry from a user, we worked with the Housing Office and Assoc. Director Chrisman to establish a Women’s Dorm Wing in the Village (in Aspen East). This is being done on a 1-year trial with 6 rooms in one corridor (started March 1, 2006), and if booked could be enlarged to become one of the small dorms (eg: Dorm 3 which is 8 rooms).
- Development of new web-based “Guide to Life at Fermilab”
- We worked with George Scheetz, Director of Batavia Public Library, on the possibility of extending library services to guests in the Village. Currently, these folks, even if on site long-term, are not officially residents of any township or library district.
- We have been learning about the proposed Suburban Transit Access Route (STAR) link proposal, which might include light rail access to FNAL on its east side. We are working with Mayor Michael Fortner (West Chicago) to place FNAL users on community committees on STAR-link.

OUTREACH

- We’ve been discussing how we could put together a particle physics “**traveling exhibit**” for museums around the country which would have drift chambers, RF cavities, etc, and a live (fake) control room of an experiment(s). The idea is to have this move to users’ towns and generate a little excitement about our field (we all have the difficulty of telling people about our work, but never being able to show directly what our ‘lab space’ looks like). This is still in its infancy, and will require us to understand what equipment is available, sources of funding, *etc.*

ANNUAL USERS’ MEETING

- This year’s Annual Users’ Meeting is focused on two themes:
 - Getting users involved in the science policy discussion
 - Opening a dialog about the ILC
- Keynote speakers at this meeting include
 - Norman Augustine, chair of *Gathering Storm* panel (public lecture)
 - Rep. Judy Biggar (R-IL), co-chair Congressional R&D Caucus
 - Robin Staffin, DOE HEP
 - Harold Shapiro (Princeton), chair of EPP2010 panel
 - Michel Della Negra, spokesperson of CMS
 - Hiro Aihara (Tokyo), ILC & T2K in Japan
- Additionally, we are trying to do a better job of showing off the talents of users
 - Featured graduate student presentations (open competition for 4 talks)
 - Poster session during the Users’ Meeting

ADVOCACY WORK

- We went to Washington to do advocacy **on behalf of HEP**. The trip is **joint with the SLAC users organization**. Our emphasis during Congressional visits was:
 - **Acknowledge and thank the Congress** for past support of the sciences.
 - Users of DOE SC facilities come from **across the nation** and the world.
 - Our field trains excellent students and pushes technology useful elsewhere.
 - We are **reaping data** from past investments in the Tevatron, neutrinos, *B* factory, satellites, and the community is gearing for the LHC.
 - The ‘07 budget is important because it commits to double phys. sciences in next decade, sends important signal to international partners.
- This year we visited the **offices of 137 members** of Congress. The unique appeal we have is that we are **“citizens” making constituent calls** to our representatives.
- It was our impression that members have a strong appreciation of the “love of science” and a strong grasp of connection to the economy & education
- We also visited members of the **Executive Branch**: Ray Orbach (DOE), Robin Staffin (DOE HEP), and Joel Perriot, Robert Dimeo, Jon Morse (OMB, OSTP)
- We are working toward future trips **evolving in participation**, perhaps to include, US-ATLAS, US-CMS, ILC users.
- It is important for all of us to **maintain regular contacts** with members of Congress and their staff. We urge you, rather than FAXing only at “critical times” of appropriations or new budget releases, to consider writing an occasional letter to your representatives. At the link <http://www.congressmerge.com/> you can find your reps’ names and FAX numbers. Consider letting them know about new results from Fermilab, or about the student who just graduated in your group. Members might appreciate hearing from you when you are *not* asking for something, but acknowledging their past efforts on your behalf.

WORKING WITH OTHER USER ORGANIZATIONS

- UEC Chair Kopp organized a meeting of all the **chairs of the user organizations** from all the DOE user facilities March 28-29, 2006.
- The theme of the meeting was National Academies’ *Gathering Storm* report, the recent visibility of basic research in the physical sciences and its effects on economic competitiveness. The goal of the meeting was to **explore ways in which user groups could work together** in their outreach and communicate the breadth of disciplines supported by the Office of Science.
- The web site for the meeting is at <http://www.hep.utexas.edu/~kopp/nufo/>
- Speakers at this meeting were
 - Cherry Murray, Deputy Director LLNL & co-author, *Gathering Storm*.
 - Eli Kintisch, AAAS and reporter for *Science* magazine
 - Mike Holland, Rep. Biggert’s staffer on House Science Committee
 - Deborah Koolbeck, legislative fellow in office of Rep. Rush Holt
 - Steve Pierson, American Physical Society
 - Mark Marin, Lewis-Burke & Associates
 - Neil Calder, Director SLAC Public Affairs Office